

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NOTES OF THE MEETING 09.09.2014

President Paul Elliot opened the meeting at 19.45 hours attended by 18 members and welcomed **Max Smith** from Bingley, Yorkshire, who displayed his collection of the **Indian Mutiny 1857-59**.



The collection consisted of mail and relevant articles, pictures and memorabilia plus medals awarded to participants for valour during the hostilities. Max explained the basic cause of the breakdown in relations between the ruling East Indian Company and their native subjects of different religious and tribal allegiances, fostered by the unwillingness of the Europeans to integrate with or accept the Indian population as equal in any aspect.

The material displayed catalogued the riots and battles throughout the two years, with pictures from current sources, recording the massacres that took place and letters from the individuals participant military personal and some civilian witnesses and refugees, depicting graphically the violent ordeal of all participants swept up in the merciless actions and reactions as the events relentlessly progressed.

The fascinating range of material all in near perfect condition was an education and a pleasure to examine, plus Max presented it with a lucid and entertaining description in detail. The evening was too brief to do justice to such a collection, which was greatly enjoyed by the members present.

The President gave the Vote of Thanks and the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

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18.09.14